

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: November 2, 2007 Comment Deadline: December 3, 2007 ORM ID SAW- 2007-03571-194

The Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application from the Town of Plymouth Municipal Airport requesting authorization for a permit to place earthen material in 52,272 (1.20 acres) of Department of the Army (DA) jurisdictional wetlands and impacting 788 linear feet of perennial drainage ditch for the purpose of expanding a single runway facility. The proposed project will be located at 1069 Plymouth Airport Road, in Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina.

Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant: Mr. Knapp Brabble

Town of Plymouth

1069 Plymouth Airport Road Plymouth, North Carolina, 27962

Consultant: Mr. Gregg Antemann,

CWS, Inc.

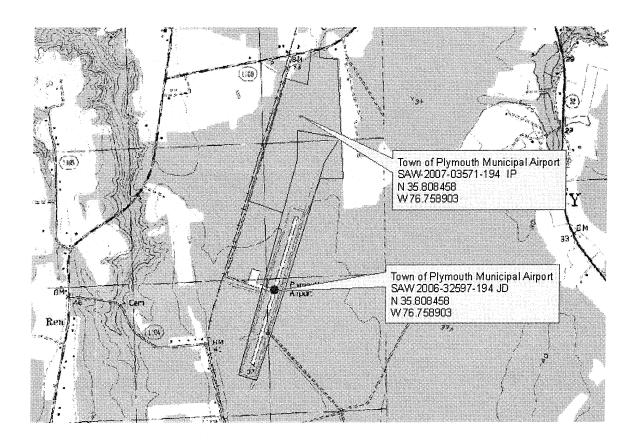
550 East Westinghouse Boulevard Charlotte, North Carolina, 28273

Authority:

The Corps will evaluate this application and a decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Location

The project site is located at 1069 Plymouth Airport Road, in Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina.



Existing Site Conditions

The current land use for the project area is a municipal airport with adjacent with adjacent wooded areas (Sheet 4). Dominant vegetation within the project area consists of common blackberry (*Rubus argutus*), river cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), soft stem rush (*Juncus effusus*), curlytop knotweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), laurel greenbriar (*Smilax laurifolia*), various grasses (*Festuca* spp.), and sedges (*Carex* spp.).

The Soil Survey of Washington County indicates on-site soils consisting of Portsmouth fine sandy loam (Pt), Altavista fine sandy loam, 0-2% slopes (AaA), Augusta fine sandy loam (At), and Tomotley fine sandy loam (To) (Sheet 4). All on-site soil types are listed by the NRCS as hydric soils for Washington County. The Portsmouth series is typically very poorly drained and exhibits moderate rapid permeability in the underlying materials. The Altavista series is moderately well drained and water movement within the most restrictive layer is moderately high. The Augusta series is somewhat poorly drained with moderate permeability. The Tomotley series is poorly drained with moderate to moderately slow permeability.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

This project proposes to expand the existing 3,700 foot runway by 1,800 feet as well as construct an extended runway safety area (ERSA). The expansion is necessary to provide safety for aviators, passengers, and personnel on the ground and to bring the Airport up to current FAA standards.

Project Description

The applicant proposes to fill 1.2 acres of jurisdictional department of the Army (DA) wetlands and impact 788 linear feet of perennial drainage ditch. The wetland area will be filled with approximately 5000 cubic yards of clean fill soil. The perennial drainage ditches will be impacted by culverting and re-alignment.

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice in the NCDWQ Central Office in Raleigh serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, 401 Oversight and Express Permits Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Ms Cyndi Karoly by November 23, 2007.

Coastal Zone Management Program: The applicant provided a letter dated December 1, 2005, from the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) stating they "have determined that the project will not occur within an Area of Environmental Concern as designated by the Coastal Resources Commission. Therefore, no permits are required from this Division for construction of the aforementioned airport expansion".

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: The applicant provided a letter dated January 4, 2006, from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stating that they "are aware of no historic resources that would be affected by the project and have no comment on the project as proposed."

Essential Fish Habitat

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project will not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps is not aware of the presence of species listed as threatened or endangered or their critical habitat formally designated pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) within the project area. A final determination on the effects of the proposed project will be made upon additional review of the project and completion of any necessary biological assessment and/or consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service.

Evaluation

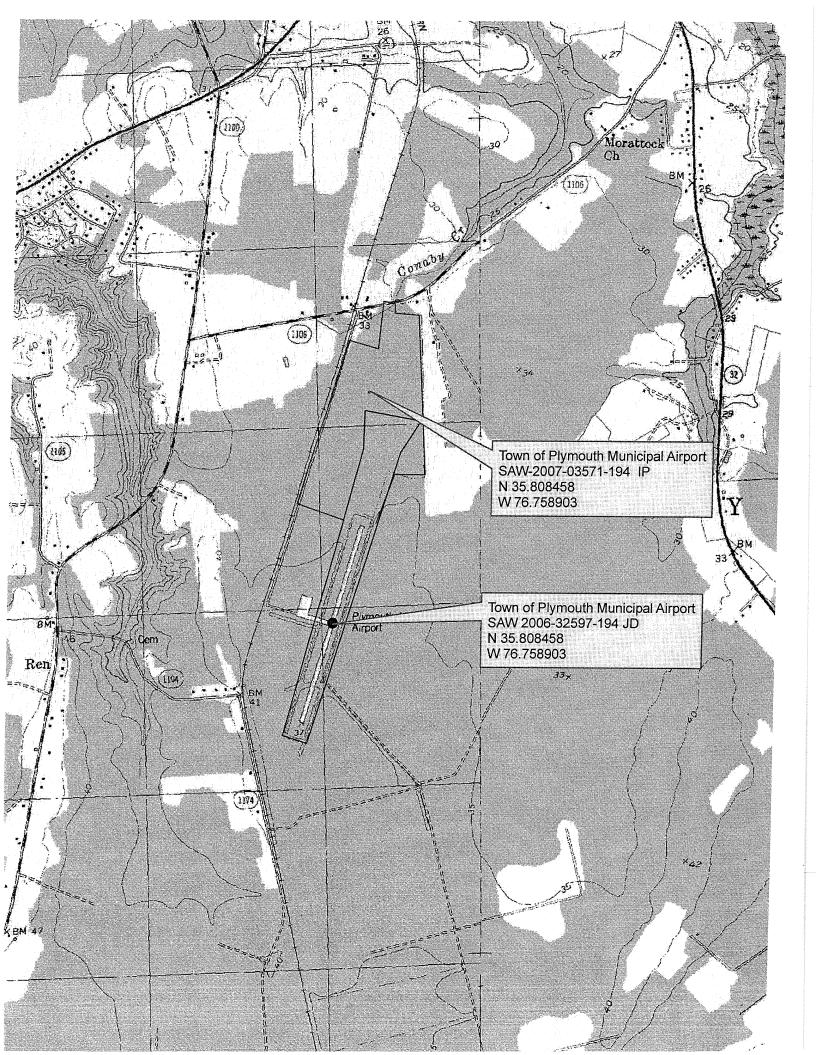
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

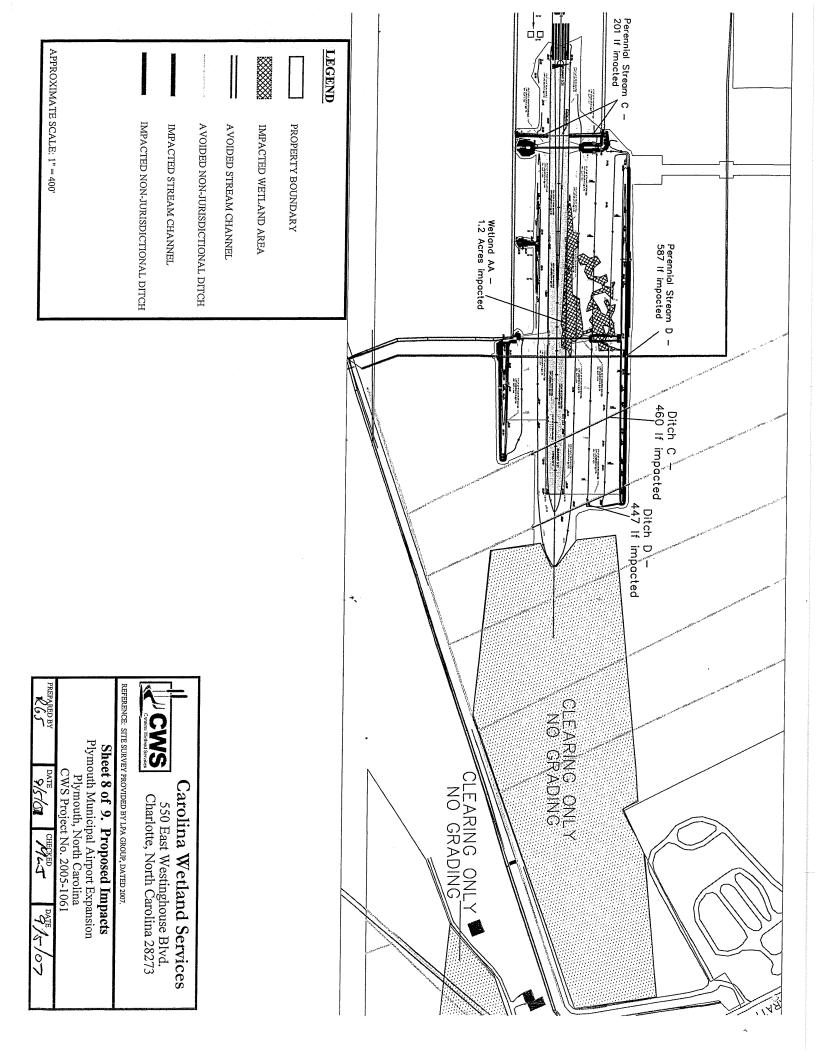
Commenting Information

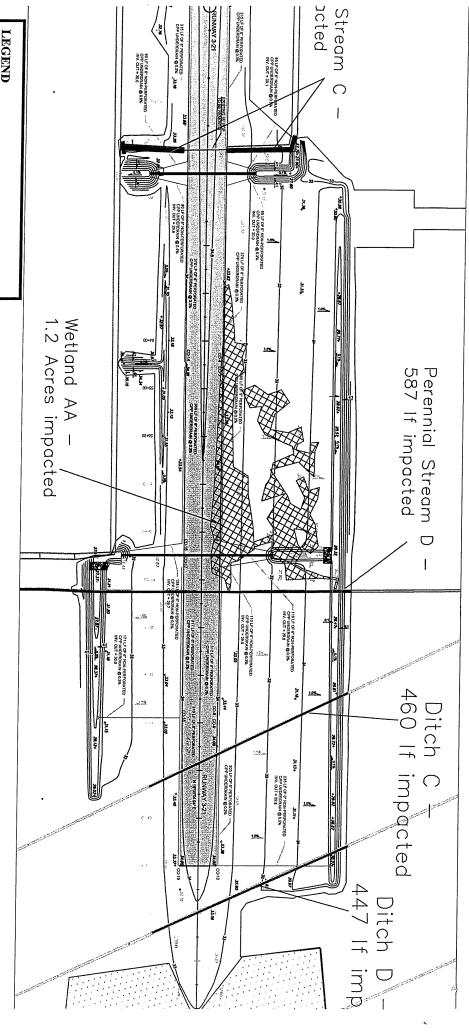
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials, including any consolidate State Viewpoint or written position of the Governor; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

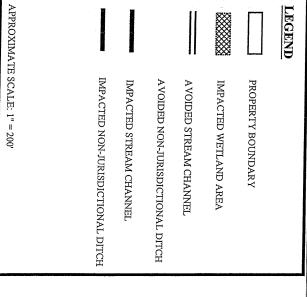
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

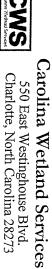
Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5 p.m., December 3, 2007. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Tom Steffens, Washington Regulatory Field Office, Post Office Box 1000, Washington, North Carolina 27889-1000, telephone (252) 975-1616, extension 25.











REFERENCE: SITE SURVEY PROVIDED BY LPA GROUP, DATED 2007.

Sheet 9 of 9. Proposed Drainage System

Plymouth Municipal Airport Expansion
Plymouth, North Carolina
CWS Project No. 2005-1061

CKED DATE /5/07